to declare the river Godavari between Rajahmundry and Cherla as a National Waterways;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has written a letter on the 20th February, 1997 on this proposal; and

(c) if so, the status of this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) The proposal to declare Cherla-Rajamundry stretch of river Godavari as a National Waterway was formulated as per the recommendation of the National Transport Policy Committee.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The proposal is under process.

Un-utilised land of Kandla Port Trust

2456. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of 4123 acres of land, Kandla Port Trust has utilised 1769 acres of land for their use and the remaining 2354 acres of land is lying un-utilised;

(b) whether the State Government of Gujarat had repeatedly represented to Government to hand over the unutilised land for industrial development at Gandhinagar;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have considered the above representations;

(e) if so, by when the surplus land is proposed to be handed over to the State Government for developing the same; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Yes, Sir. There is no surplus land at Kandla and the lands presently lying unutilised are required for the development of the port and the port's township.

World Bank Assistance for Development of State and National Highways

2457. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank is assisting for improvement and development of State and National Highways;

(b) if so, the details of the assistance expected in 1997-98 and how it will be utilised, State-wise; and

(c) the assistance proposed for 'express roads' suggested by the Andhra Pradesh Government?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 1997-98, a loan amounting to US $ 385.5 million is expected to be signed for improvement of State Highways in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) No 'express roads' is proposed to be taken up in Andhra Pradesh under World Bank Loan assistance.

Development of Container Transhipment Terminal

2458. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to develop a Container Transhipment Terminal (CTT) in South on the basis of study made by the